

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

Engineering Committee

November 13, 2025

Approved

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Engineering Committee was held on November 13, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in-person and via teleconferencing from the Administrative Offices located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California. The following members of the Engineering Committee were present:

MIKE DUNBAR
HANNAH FORD
ROBERT GRANTHAM
MARC SERNA

Emerald Bay Service District
El Toro Water District [Zoom]
Santa Margarita Water District
South Coast Water District

Absent:

DAVE REBENS DORF
MARK MCAVOY

City of San Clemente
City of Laguna Beach

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE
RONI GRANT
JIM BURROR
ANNA SUTHERLAND
MATT CLARKE
LYNDA MAY

General Manager
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager
Deputy GM/Chief Engineer
Staff Accountant
Chief Technology Officer
Administrative Assistant/Assistant Secretary

Also Present:

MARK TRESTIK
SANDRA HUANG
CHRIS NEWTON

City of Laguna Beach
South Coast Water District
South Coast Water District

1. Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Roni Grant, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of Committee Member Request for Remote Participation (Standing Item)

Ms. Hannah Ford participated via Zoom.

4. JBL Facility Planning Assessment Contract Award [Project Committee 2]

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Mr. Grantham and seconded by Mr. Serna to 1) Authorize execution of a contract with HDR in the amount of \$545,325 for the JBL FPA contract, 2) Approve a contract contingency of \$54,675, to cover the additional scope item, and 3) Approve the 10 percent increase to the contingency to cover the regional flow study.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Mr. Grantham Aye
Ms. Serna Aye

5. JBL Old Effluent Pump Station Storage and Staging Area Construction Contract [Project Committee 2]

An open discussion ensued regarding the needs for space, with an emphasis on safety compliance and ability to expedite future projects.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Mr. Serna and seconded by Mr. Grantham to 1) approve an increase of \$600,000 to the project budget, resulting in a revised total project budget of \$850,000, 2) authorize execution of a contract with Pacific Hydrotech in the amount of \$791,700 for the JBL Old Effluent Pump Storage and Staging Area project. And 3) approve a construction contingency of \$39,585 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Mr. Grantham Aye
Mr. Serna Aye

6. Contract Award for Coastal Treatment Plant West Primary and Secondary Scum Skimming System Construction [Project Committee 15]

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Mr. Dunbar and seconded by Mr. Serna to 1) approve an increase of \$500,000 to the project budget, resulting in a revised total project budget of \$1.75 million, 2) Authorize execution of a contract with Filanc in the amount of \$784,000, and 3) approve a construction contingency of \$35,040 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Mr. Dunbar Aye
Mr. Serna Aye
Mr. McAvoy Absent

7. Contract Award for Coastal Treatment Plant Personnel Building Phase 2 Upgrades [Project Committee 15]

An open discussion ensued regarding the legality of rejecting the public bids and negotiating with a contractor directly. An agreement was made to review this with the legal team. Mr. Serna suggested pushing the project to early 2026 due to the low number of bids, and to pull in more contractors with outreach and packaging the project with future Capital Improvement Projects at CTP.

This agenda item was tabled upon discussion.

8. SOCWA Laboratory Upgrades Feasibility Study Update

An open discussion ensued on the need for a centralized, regional laboratory to support advanced water analysis and infrastructure projects. Ms. Amber Boone reminded the committee that the lease with MNWD's lab still has around 9 years left in regards to the

planning timeline. Mr. Grantham mentioned a potential building location in Mission Viejo. Ms. Ford commented on the possibility this plan may not benefit ETWD and would like a cost structure reflecting this.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

9. Approval of Minutes

- Engineering Committee Minutes of September 11, 2025.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Mr. Grantham and seconded by Mr. Dunbar to approve the Engineering Committee Minutes for September 11, 2025.

Motion carried:	Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2
Mr. McAvoy	Absent
Ms. Ford	Aye
Mr. Dunbar	Aye
Mr. Grantham	Aye
Mr. Serna	Aye
Mr. Rebensdorf	Absent

10. General Manager's Status Report

Ms. Amber Boone reported that the PC15 Water Research Proposal was rejected. She also announced the next board meeting will be at the Ocean Institute.

An open discussion ensued on the release of the scope of work for the Coastal Treatment Plant FPA, with a presentation scheduled for the next week. Mr. Dunbar inquired on the timing of the Regional Flow Study in regards to CTP Master Plan Upgrades. Timelines to the FPA and Flow Study were discussed and expedited.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

11. Operations Report

Mr. Jim Burror, Deputy GM/Chief Engineer, reported on the upcoming storm due to have substantial rainfall. Ms. Amber Boone congratulated Mr. Burror on completing the MIT Executive Program for AI and Machine Learning. She also briefed on the progress of his internal projects utilizing these skills, including a new product on environmental hazards.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

12. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (November)
[Project Committees 2 and 15]

Ms. Roni Grant updated the Engineering Committee on the status of the following CIP projects:

- JBL Electrical Upgrades - Pre-purchasing activities for the Motor Control Center (MCC) and Plant 1 Generator are currently underway. Construction is anticipated to be completed by December 2026, contingent upon the issuance of the AQMD permit to construct for the generator.

- JBL Old Effluent Pump Station and Energy Building Upgrades – Construction is currently in progress. Construction is anticipated to be completed by July 2026.
- JBL Plant 2 Headworks Rehabilitation – Construction is currently in progress. Construction is anticipated to be completed by March 2026.
- JBL Old Effluent Pump Station Storage and Staging – The bids are currently under review. Construction is anticipated to be completed by March 2026.
- CTP Aeration Deck Grating Replacement – Construction is near completion. The contractor is working on punch list items. Construction is anticipated to be completed by December 2025.
- CTP West Primary and Secondary Scum Skimming System – The bids are currently under review. Construction is anticipated to be completed by July 2026.
- CTP Personnel Building Phase 2 Reconstruction – The bids are currently under review. Construction is anticipated to be completed by July 2026.
- CTP Grit Tanks Coating Upgrades - Construction is in progress. Construction is anticipated to be completed by December 2025.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Grant adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Engineering Committee of November 13, 2025, and approved by the Engineering Committee and received and filed by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY